

SPARK GAP

Vol. 32, Issue 4, April 2015 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-two years*

On Our MARC...

April showers bring May flowers. Maybe we can bottle up the rain and send it out to California as they are in dire need of water.

May is the start of a summer full of Amateur Radio related activity. It kicks off with the Dayton Hamfest in May, followed by the Strawberry Fest and Field day in June. Then September brings the Heartnut Fest and the Radio Club annual picnic. I hope everyone will get a chance to stop by some of the activities.

Our Tech Review Class put two new HAMs on the air. One attendee passed the test that day and the other came to our monthly meeting, tested and passed. We were hoping for more people to attend the review session but only had two attendees so it gave the instructor's time to work one on one with the two prospective Amateur Radio licensees and help them out. Thanks for all those that were there to help Bruce and the VE team to help with testing. If you have any suggestions on how to get our name out there for the next class, please see either Bruce or talk with one of the PIO's. You can email them at pio@midstatehams.org.

Our speaker for April will be Dave Arland talking about new technology. It's not necessarily new technology in Amateur Radio, but other technologies as well. No speaker is scheduled for May due to Dayton. If there is anyone in the Club that would like to speak to the group that is not attending the Hamfest, please let me know. Our June speaker will be Gary Davis. Gary will be speaking about his project that is a 20/40m 1.3W QRP CW transmitter. He developed the transmitter for use on sailboats. However, the transmitter and antenna can also be used for land based applications. His story & project are currently published in the May-June issue of Ocean Navigator magazine. The story tells about the transmitter he built for his friend who used it to communicate with him by CW during his 6 week voyage to the Bahamas aboard his 28ft. sailboat in 2014. The magazine has also published the schematic and parts list on line.

Hope to see you on Saturday.

Jacki, KI6QOG
President



APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

KI6QOG --- Jacki Frederick

April 2015 Hilltop ARES Exercise

By Jack Parker W8ISH

Emergency communications moved to a higher level last weekend as Johnson county ARES members set up and operated from hilltops. The Saturday morning simulated emergency was an exercise to test our ability to quickly set up in a park, parking lot or other elevated location to test simplex communications. A dozen club members participated by addressing questions about first aid supplies on hand as well as specialized disaster kits. Most stations reported running 25-55 watts of power.

The main objective was to operate simplex on 145.550 MHz using portable masts, antennas or tree strung antennas. Most stations reported running 25-55 watts of power. Several operators tried using their HT with rubber ducky antennas but switched to elevated wire or ground plane antennas for greater range.

All portable stations ran high power if equipped using deep cycle batteries. This allowed greater range using a simplex frequencies and provided longer operating time if needed.

The majority of stations checking in were based in northern Johnson county. Bruce-K9ICP, anchored the Center Grove team along with Mike-KC9WLR and Chris-KQ9Y. They found Independence Park near Center Grove High School to be a good location. Steve-K9DY set up ran solo from Craig Park in Greenwood while Jack-W8ISH, Phil-AE9H and Josh-KD9DHX camped out near the Starbucks café at Emerson and Greenwood road.

Further south Ron-K9THR, Ken-KD9ALA and Maryls-KD9BHM operated in a parking lot just off US31 at Dunn Street in Franklin. Jeff-KC9ULB checked in from northeast Franklin.

Our southern exposure was covered by Steve-N9LC operating simplex from the Johnson county Park near Camp Atterbury. This was probably the greatest test to our simplex communication net. With just a trace of white noise all stations could hear N9LC holding down the southern flank.

Each group reported small problems with channel selection and antenna erection or placement. The feedback was positive. Everyone felt it was a good learning experience and exercise to work out the equipment bugs associated with any field operation. All agreed that it was a great spring morning exercise for the first Johnson county ARES Hilltop emergency exercise.



Josh, Phil and Jack on their Hilltop



Josh and his HT



Phil making adjustment to his HT



Phil and Jack making sure all is OK



Jack is about ready to get on the air



Josh and his HT antenna



Steve N9LC and his station



Maryls Barr – KD9BHM on the air

TEN-TEC SOLD AGAIN

(April 2, 2015) RKR Designs, LLC of Longmont Colorado has announced that they have acquired the assets of Alpha Amplifier and TEN-TEC brands from RF Concepts. RKR plans to expand the product line, while continuing to service their customers that have enjoyed their products over the years.

The principals of RKR Designs are Richard Gall, Ken Long and Rich Danielson (Gall and Danielson of QSC Systems, Longmont, Colorado have been a successful contract manufacturer, for over 20 years). Ken Long, N0QO has over 20 years in the electronics and amateur radio industry. Long will be President and CEO of the new company. QSC has been building Alpha amplifiers for over 5 years. They have also been building boards for TEN-TEC since their purchase by RF Concepts last year. Mr. Long said “QSC has always been a fantastic contract manufacturer, and has the expertise and knowledge that will allow us to bring down costs, while increasing quality and reducing manufacturing times.”

When asked for comment, Michael Seedman, AA6DY said “I can’t think of a more capable group of people to take over the 45 year Alpha Amplifier/TEN-TEC legacy. Ken Long has been involved with the industry for years, and has a great feeling for products and operations. He has the manufacturing and engineering resources available to deliver quality products that our customers demand”. Mr. Seedman went on to say “Alpha and TEN-TEC have always had a warm spot in my heart, and I am thrilled that RKR Designs will be able to continue the operations of the business. I wish them the best”.

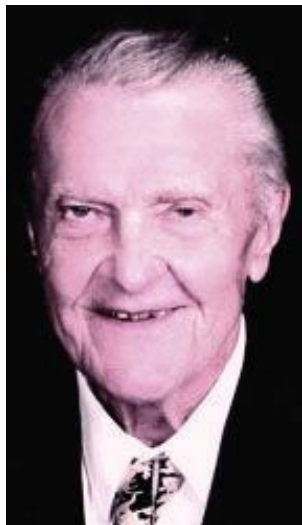
Ken, Richard and Rich have been working very close over the past several years and feel that this new relationship will benefit the company and customers moving forward. This closer relationship to the contract manufacturer will allow a more consistent process and delivery of quality products along with significant cost benefits.

RKR Designs LLC is privately held, and terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

..... from a TEN-TEC press release 4/02/2015

Amateur Radio Television Pioneer Don Miller, W9NTP, SK

Amateur Radio television pioneer and past ARRL Central Division Director Don C. Miller, W9NTP, of Waldron, Indiana, died March 22. He was 91. An ARRL Life Member, he was licensed in 1943. In the 1960s, Miller was instrumental in developing slow-scan TV (SSTV) for ham radio, working with Cop MacDonald, VY2CM, and others. Miller wrote several articles on SSTV for QST. In 1972, Dayton Hamvention® honored Miller as Amateur of the Year. Miller served as the Central Division Director from 1977 until 1980.



Don Miller, W9NTP.

During World War II, Miller served in the US Army Signal Corps before being recruited to work at the Trinity atomic weapons test site in New Mexico as part of the Manhattan Project.

"I went to work one day and finally figured out that we were building a nuclear bomb. But that's all I knew about it," Miller told The Rushville Republican newspaper in 2007. Miller said he worked with J. Robert Oppenheimer, who oversaw the Manhattan Project.

Miller also was a collector of Native American and other historical artifacts, and in 2014, FBI agents raided his Indiana home and confiscated objects alleged to have been collected in violation of federal and state laws and of several treaties. Miller's collection included artifacts from all over the world. He told investigators that he had begun collecting as a youngster.

In 1984, Miller and his wife, Sue, W9YL (SK), founded Wyman Research Inc, which developed and marketed Amateur Radio SSTV and ATV equipment. Wyman Research engineered the SSTV gear used onboard the Russian Mir space station.

-- Thanks to The Shelbyville News; The Daily DX



VIBROPLEX PURCHASES BENCHER

Vibroplex Purchases Bencher Amateur Radio Product Line:

Bencher Inc has announced the sale of its Amateur Radio product line to Vibroplex LLC of Knoxville, Tennessee, owned by Scott Robbins, W4PA. "This sale ends Bencher's presence in the Amateur Radio field, thus allowing the principals, Jere Benedict, President, and Bob Locher, W9KNI, to move towards retirement," the announcement said. Product lines included in the sale include the Bencher BY series of iambic paddles as well as the ST series of single-lever paddles, the Bencher Hex Paddle, the N2DAN Mercury Paddle, and the Bencher RJ series hand keys. The sale also includes the HK-1 Universal Hook-up kit and the YA-1 Low Pass Filter. Vibroplex has agreed to honor the manufacturer's warranties and to provide parts and support, and it will continue offering Bencher products through existing marketing channels. Benedict and Locher expressed "gratitude to the Amateur Radio community for its interest and support since the sale of the first Bencher Amateur Radio products in the early 1970s."

..... ARRL NEWS





ARRL booth at the Dayton Hamvention
..... picture by Jeff Davis

DAYTON HAMVENTION MAY 15TH, 16TH & 17TH, 2015

2015 Indiana Hamfests and Convention

04/18/2015 | [North Central Indiana Hamfest](#)

Location: Peru, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kokomo ARC, Cass County ARC, Grant County ARC, & Miami County ARC

Website: <http://nci-hamfest.net>

07/11/2015 | [Indianapolis Hamfest](#)

Location: Indianapolis, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Indianapolis Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.indyhamfest.com>

11/14/2015 | [Indiana State Convention \(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo\)](#)

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month
in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT
Secretary: Rhonda Curtis– WS9H
Treasurer: Cy Young – N9CHY
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

***Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members
and ALL RADIO AMATEURS***

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Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

***Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com
no later than the 3rd of the month***

